



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II  
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

**RESPONSE AND PREVENTION BRANCH**  
**MINI POLLUTION REPORT**

ERNS NO.: N/A LOCATION: Union Twp., Union Co., New Jersey  
RELEASE DATE: Ongoing NOTIFICATION: 2/16/01 RESPONSE: 2/16/01  
MATERIAL RELEASED: Sodium hydrosulfite, sodium hydroxide  
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: Schaeffer Salts  
OFFICIALS ON SCENE:  
FEDERAL: D. Perera, OSC  
C. Jimenez, OSC  
STATE: H. Camargo, NJDEP-BER  
MUNICIPALITY:

**SITUATION:**

Union Township was in the process of obtaining Brownfield funding for the Schaeffer Salts facility. A consultant had prepared a PA report and submitted to NJDEP. As a matter of procedure, NJDEP official toured the facility and noted containers of corrosives and notified NJDEP-BER.

The Schaeffer Salts is an inactive manufacturer of industrial inorganic salts. According to local officials this facility has been inactive for approximately 3 years. However, a tenant, a one man trucking outfit, is leasing one building. It also appears that he is utilizing other building for storage. The facility consists of several warehouse, and process buildings and is situated between an apartment complex and NJ Transit rail line.

**ACTION:**

EPA was notified of the site on February 16, 2001. On this same date OSCs met with officials from NJDEP-BER and toured the site. The primary storage building, approximately 75ftX200ft, contained approximately 50 sodium hydrosulfite and 75 fiber drums of sodium hydroxide. The containers were labeled corrosive and in the case of the hydrosulfite, additional labels identified it as a flammable and a water reactive was noted. The fiber drums containing the hydroxide were triple stacked and in extremely poor condition. Other pails with corrosive labels were identified, though most of the visible pails contained two or less inches of a liquid product. The main warehouse building is not secure and is accessed by the tenant.

The remaining buildings also housed bags of what appeared to be salts and containers of sodium hydrosulfite.

**RECOMMENDATIONS/FUTURE ACTIONS:**

NJDEP-BER is requesting that EPA conduct a time critical removal action at this site. Based on the condition of the sodium hydroxide containers and what is believed to be spilt sodium hydrosulfite in the main ware house building, it is recommended that verbal authorization be sought to initiate site stabilization and security. The issue of ownership needs to be resolved. According to local officials, the facility is bankrupt, however, the tenant is continuing to submit the rent to an attorney representing the owner.

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Front view of the main warehouse



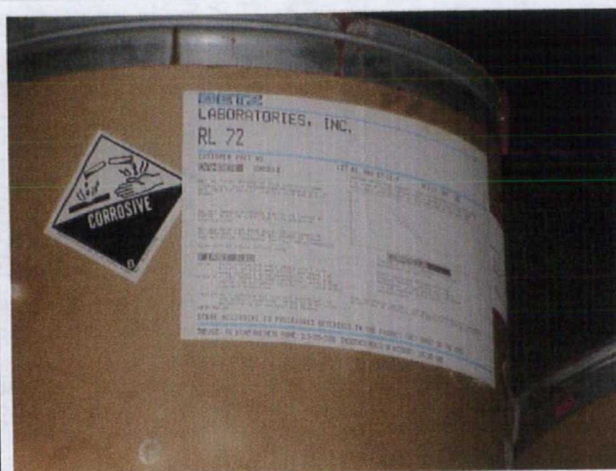
Front and side view of the main warehouse



An example of the Sodium hydrosulfite containers found throughout the main warehouse



A close up of the deteriorating sodium hydroxide fiber drums



Label Information on the sodium hydroxide fiber drums



One of the staging area for the sodium hydroxide and hydrosulfite. One can note the poor condition of the fiber drums and spilt material on the floor.